

Bee Flight

Ipswich & West Moreton Beekeepers Association



President's Report

Welcome to this month's newsletter. March is set to be a very busy month for the club with our annual honey competition at the next club meeting and our field day later in the month.



I would encourage every one to have a go at entering our honey competition, it is great practice for the upcoming show season.

One of the main aims of our club is to promote an awareness of honey bees in the community, and honey competitions are a great way of doing that... ***So do it for the Bees!***

Our biggest and most challenging day to organise is our field-day which is on this month. We really need as many people as possible to help out on the day, even if you can't stay all day, an hour or so helps. Please let us know at the meeting if you are able to come along, or give Noela a call to let her add you to the list of volunteers. Full details of the day are in this newsletter.

Phil Geeves
Club President

March 2018 Edition

Club Meetings

Our club meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month (except January)

Venue

W.G. Hayden Humanities Centre
Cnr. South and Nicholas Streets,
Ipswich 7.30pm.

All welcome.

Club Registration

Before club meetings all members are required to pay a \$2.00 registration fee.

Dates to Remember

Club Meeting - 6th March
Club Field Day 11th March 2018
Committee Meeting 12th March
Club events are on the website calendar

<http://www.honey.org.au>

Questions ?

Don't forget you can submit written questions on beekeeping at each club meeting.

Just pop them in the container near the entrance on your way in.

Noela Geeves
Club Secretary

Club Meeting 6th March

- Our March meeting will include our annual club honey competition (see below), we hope everyone has a go at entering.
- Our club member Frank Moeller will share with us “How I became a Beekeeper.”
- We will show a short video on inspecting hives for AFB whilst we await the honey competition results.
- 500g glass competition bottles will be available for purchase.
- Plus all the usual items such as our club reports, library, raffle, and importantly, supper!

Honey Competition

Our March meeting includes the club's annual honey competition. If you are new to beekeeping and unsure of how to go about it, just call one of the committee or one of our experienced members.

Members only need to supply 1 bottle for each entry but can enter as many bottles in each class as they like as long as they come from different flora/apiaries. All honey entries to be presented in standard 500g glass bottles with white lids. All entries must be from the exhibitor's own apiaries. Remember you can also enter wax.

The following are the Classes that members can enter:-

1. Light Honey.
2. Golden Honey.
3. Dark Honey.
4. Creamed Honey
5. Beeswax – block of beeswax – min 500g up to 1Kg.

Show Dates 2017

<u>Marburg</u>	<u>11th & 12th May 2018</u>	<u>www.marburgshow.com.au</u>
<u>Ipswich</u>	<u>18th - 20th May 2018</u>	<u>www.ipswichshow.com.au</u>
<u>Esk</u>	<u>25th & 26th May 2018</u>	<u>www.eskshow.com.au</u>
<u>Boonah</u>	<u>1st & 2nd June 2018</u>	<u>www.boonahshowsociety.org.au</u>
<u>Toogoolawah</u>	<u>8th & 9th June 2018</u>	<u>www.toogoolawahshowsociety.org.au</u>
<u>Lowood</u>	<u>15th & 16th June 2018</u>	<u>www.lowwoodshowsociety.com.au</u>
<u>Kalbar</u>	<u>22nd & 23rd June 2018</u>	<u>www.kalbarshow.net.au</u>
<u>Rosewood</u>	<u>29th & 30th June 2018</u>	<u>www.rosewoodshow.com</u>
<u>Redcliffe</u>	<u>29th June to 1st July 2018</u>	<u>www.redcliffeshow.org.au</u>
<u>EKKA</u>	<u>10th - 19th August 2018</u>	<u>www.ekka.com.au</u>
<u>Beaudesert</u>	<u>7th & 8th September 2018</u>	<u>www.beaudesertshow.org.au</u>

Field Day - Volunteer List

We need as many people as possible to help with the set up and running of the field day, as based on last years' numbers we can expect 300 + people to attend. This day is our biggest event in the year and promotes the importance of bees as pollinators and food providers. The day is an educational day and again, this year, we have some great guest speakers.

Field Day Volunteer Roster		
Saturday 10th March		
Role	Numbers needed	Names so far
Hall Setup Saturday , 10 th March, 2.00pm	10	Phil Geeves, Kellie Round, George Pallot, Phil Corbett, Mary Corbett. Noela Geeves.
Sunday 11th March		
Hall Setup 7.30 - 9.00am	10	Phil Corbett, Mary Corbett, Grahame Yates, George Pallot, Mike Trott, Eunice Trott, Shane O'Reilly and Jason Francis
Organise Suppliers stall setup 7.30am - 9.00am	1	<i>Nil</i>
Honey Judge	1	Peter Warhurst
Cake Judge	1	Ronda Warhurst
Honey Comp - Steward 7.30am - 2.00pm	1	Phil Geeves
Cent Auction	1	Kellie Round, Noela Geeves
Front Gate - Entry Fees Sunday 12 th , 8.00am - 12.00 noon	6	Jill Nelson, Phil Dunlop, Dimitri Markotsis and Peter Waldron.
Kitchen Supervisor	1	Noela Geeves
Kitchen Hands	4	Mat Cooper
Soft Drink Sales	2	Mike Trott, Eunice Trott
MC	1	George Pallot
BBQ	4	Peter Anderson, James Linklater Steele, Ian Workman and Phil Dunlop
Clean up 2.00 - 3.00pm	10	<i>Everyone</i>

Roles with numbers in red = need more volunteers.

Field Day Recipes

AUSTRALIAN HONEY CAKE

Ingredients

2 eggs
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup oil
3/4 cup honey
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon cloves
2 tablespoons cocoa
1 cup self raising flour
1 cup flour
1 cup boiling water

VARIATIONS -

1/2 teaspoons mixed spices
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Preheat oven to 190°C (375°F), or for convection oven 180°C (350°F)

Method

Mix eggs with sugar.
Add remaining ingredients in following order: oil, honey, soda, cloves, cocoa and flours.
Lastly, add boiling water
Bake for 1 - 1-1/4h in a 9 inch tin
After 1/2h lower heat to 180°C (350°F)
For last 10-15mins lower heat to 160°C (325°F)

Cooks note - This is a wonderfully aromatic and deliciously moist cake, and keeps very well stored in an airtight cake container.

HONEY BISCUITS

Ingredients

175g unsalted butter, chopped
1 cup caster sugar
1/4 cup honey
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 egg, lightly beaten
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 1/4 cups self-raising flour

Method

Stir butter, sugar, honey and cinnamon in a medium saucepan over low heat until butter has dissolved and mixture is smooth.
Remove from heat and transfer mixture to a large bowl. Cool to room temperature.
Stir in the egg, vanilla and flour.
Roll teaspoons of mixture into balls.
Place balls 4cm apart on two oven trays lined with baking paper and gently flatten with a fork.
Cook in two batches at 180°C (350°F) for 12 minutes or until golden brown. Allow to cool on trays.

Field Day Programme 11th March

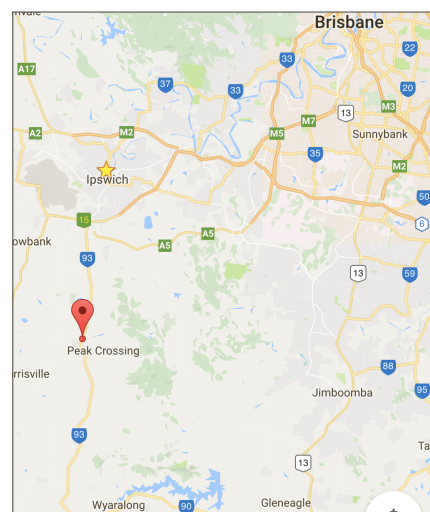
Once again this year we have a fabulous line-up of speakers so it will be an exciting and informative day. Remember our field-day is now held locally once every two years as next year our sister club Gold Coast will host the event. So this is your last chance to attend a field day in our region until 2020.

As always morning tea, lunch and soft drinks will be available for purchase. Please bring some extra coins, as there will be cent auction tickets to purchase in the main hall with great prizes.

Burnett Beekeeping Supplies will be there on the day. If you wish you can pre-order items. That way you are assured of receiving the bee equipment that you require.

Phone 0427946614 or 0429130167.

Their web site is www.burnettbeekeepingsupplies.com.au



Inter-club Trophy (Honey Competition)

At the field day members entering the competition only need to supply 1 bottle for each entry. One entry per member for each class. All entries to be presented in standard 500g bottles with white lids. All entries must be from the exhibitor's own apiary. We will have 500g glass competition bottles available at the March meeting.

The following are the Classes that Members can enter:-

1. Light Honey.
2. Golden Honey.
3. Dark Honey.
4. Comb Section in Honey.
5. Creamed Honey.
6. Block of wax yellow – min 500g.
7. Block of wax white – min 500g
8. Frame of Honey.
9. Biscuit Recipe.
10. Cake Recipe.



Name Badges (Important please)

Our new name badges for all our financial members were available for collection at the last meeting. If you weren't there please collect yours at the next meeting. Please wear your badge to all club events and meetings. We currently have 223 paid up members and it's almost impossible to remember everyone's name, it also shows that you are a member and it helps with introductions. We would ask that you try not to lose your badge. We can order replacements but the cost of \$13 will need to be paid by the member for any replacements.

Flora - March

We should be seeing Blue Heliotrope, Paper Barked Tea Tree, Molly Red Box, Pumpkin, Red Stringybark, Silver Leafed Ironbark, Brown Bloodwood, Gumtop Box, Grey Gum, Pink Bloodwood, Turnip Weed and Blackbutt.

Library

Library books and DVDs are able to be borrowed for one month at a time. If you wish to keep the book, or DVD for another month, bring it back and it can be re-issued to you. Any books or DVDs lost or damaged will need to be paid for by the borrower.

Honey Buckets, Bottles and Jars (Members only)

If you require a large number of jars (more than 100) we respectfully request that you purchase them from one of our recommended Apiary Suppliers. Should you wish to purchase jars from the club please talk to Noela 07 3281 4165.

- Plastic 1 kg jars are 70c each and are available in 50 or 100 jar cartons.
- New 20 litre honey buckets with lids are \$7.00 each.
- 500g bottles for competitions are available at 90c each.



**Please keep the boxes that the 1 kg bottles come in and return them for reuse.
The club does not stock or supply items other than the items mentioned.**

Apithor Beetle Traps (Members only)

The club currently has stock of beetle traps. They will be available at the next meeting at the cost of \$6.00 each. If you need large numbers of these please advise Noela beforehand.

March Meeting

There will be no presentation due to our honey competition. We will however show a short video about AFB followed by a Q&A session. This months' lucky door prize will be a new smoker.

How I started in Bees.

A five-minute talk about "How I became a Beekeeper".

- March - Frank Moeller
- April - Denis Manning

Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on the 12th March.

Supper Roster

- March - Bill Mahon, Trevor Nardi, Jill Nelson and Shane O'Reilly
- April - Adrienne Pryor, Peter Hare, Colin & Susan Newham

Room Set up

- March - Dimitri Markotsis
- April - Terry McAllister

Please Note: If you are on the supper or room set up roster and unable to attend the meeting, please ensure you advise Secretary Noela so that a substitute member can be found.

Facebook

Our club's official Facebook page is at: www.facebook.com/groups/1430687710358660/
You can also follow the links from our website.

Club shirts, badges and caps

If any members of the club are interested in having a club shirt and/or badge, please see Secretary Noela. The price of shirts is \$18.00 and the badge is now only \$4.00.

Beeswax Wanted

Both Rod Palmer at CB Palmer & Co, and Noel at Quality Beekeeping Supplies are interested in buying beeswax, any quantity, small or large. Phone Rod on 0417 796 257
Contact Noel at Quality Beekeeping Supplies on 3376 5404.

Support those who support you.

Our club has been very fortunate to benefit from the generosity of both Noel Hutchinson of Quality Beekeeping Supplies (3376 5404) and Rod Palmer at C.B. Palmer and Co (0417 796 257). Please remember these very good friends when you require Apiary supplies. Many thanks also to Councillor Kylie Stoneman for continuing support in photocopying our newsletter.

Wiring Board (Members only)

Just a reminder the club has available for loan to members a wiring board, a box to make frames up in and an embedder to put the wax on the frames. Our continued thanks to Noel Scholz for these items.

Extracting Van Hire (Members only)

Should any member wish to hire the club van please contact Peter Anderson on 3800 3562 to make a booking. The cost of using the van is \$20.00 per day

Club Hand Extractor (Members only)

The club has two hand extractors for hire by members who only have a small number of frames to extract. To hire one of the extractors members should book and pay at the Club meeting prior to picking it up. The cost is \$10.00 per day for a max of 7 days. The extractor must be returned clean. An electric uncapping knife will go out with each extractor.

Depending upon your location

Peter Anderson at Forestdale has one of them. Phone: 3800 3562

Phil Geeves at Blackstone has the other one. Phone: 0409 485 447

Wax Melter (members only)

The club now has a wax melter available for hire. Please Contact Peter Anderson if you would like to access this club equipment. Phone: 3800 3562.

Articles

A genetic improvement program has received \$1.3 million from the NSW Government to breed Queen bees with superior honey production, disease resistance and pollination performance.

The program will ensure the sustainability of pollination services across horticulture and cropping.

As part of the program, a new research apiary will be based at Tocal Agricultural College. The apiary will have 250 hives, a honey extraction plant and facilities for the instrumental insemination of bees.

Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair said genetic gains in honey production are estimated to be worth up to \$41 million over the next 25 years.

"Currently there is no significant genetic improvement of managed honey bees in Australia and anecdotal evidence suggests the quality of breeder queens is declining," Mr Blair said.

"Our researchers will now begin to evaluate the suitability of Australian and overseas honey bee populations for a range of production and health-related traits and use these results to produce superior queen bees for commercial breeders."



Learn more at: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees>

Sentinel beehives provide coastal defence against varroa mite invasion.

Justin Huntsdale - Radio Australia

Stationed near the major ports of Australia's coastal cities are a group of closely monitored beehives designed to detect the varroa mite parasite that has the potential to decimate bee populations.

A bee carries pollen from flower to flower in a garden in the seaside Adelaide suburb of Glenelg North. (Shane Reid) (Credit: ABC)



Surrounded by thousands of new cars, a coal loading plant, numerous shipping berths and smoke stacks in Port Kembla is a calm area of green space with one of Australia's most important hives.

It is a sentinel hive — a closely monitored colony ready to raise the alarm should a bee carrying the varroa mite arrive in a shipping container and join the swarm.

"It's not if, but when [the mite arrives], and it's going to come in a container of food," bee keeper and sentinel hive custodian John Crouchley said. "We're the only country in the world that hasn't got the varroa mite problem. It's in New Zealand and it's in New Guinea. It's a small mite like a tic that sits on the neck of the bee, sucks its blood and decimates the hive."

More than 65 per cent of horticultural and agricultural crops produced in Australia require honey bees for pollination, meaning the destruction of beehives would be catastrophic for the country's food production.

Organisation Bee Aware said for ever year Australia remains free of the varroa mite, industries that rely on honey bee pollination receive a benefit of \$50.5 million per year.

"Bees are the absolute epicentre of good things on a cherry orchard because without them, we would be stuffed," Central West New South Wales cherry, apple and grape grower Borry Gartrell said.

The Orange-based farmer contracts a bee keeper to bring in hives each year to pollinate his crops, providing an invaluable service to the livelihood of his farm on Mount Canobolas in Orange.

"It would be a tragedy if varroa mite comes to Australia because the rest of the world are in serious trouble," he said.

"There are lots of areas where they're hand-pollinating crops and [on our farm] we've planted areas that are dependent on something to come in and move pollen from one stage to another."

How the sentinel hives work

Inside each sentinel hive is a pest strip that will kill the varroa mite.

The hive has a mesh bottom board so any mite that is killed will drop onto sticky paper underneath.

"We take those out every six weeks and send them to the DPI and they monitor it," Mr Crouchley said.

"We've been doing it three years and, touch wood, we've had none [varroa mite]."

The National Bee Pest Surveillance Program is an early warning system run by [Plant Health Australia](#), and delivered in New South Wales by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), and bee keepers like Mr Crouchley and his daughter Justine.

"We may not have that time [to operate the program], so enlisting them as volunteers certainly helps the cause," DPI's NSW Bee Biosecurity Officer Surveillance Mark Page said.

"These people are passionate about keeping bees and in looking after the hives they have the added benefit of collecting honey so it works both ways for everyone."

He said Australia should be proud to have the strongest honeybee biosecurity program in the world, but agrees with Mr Crouchley that the arrival of the varroa mite to Australia is inevitable.

"Varroa tends to take out wild colonies so only managed hives would remain, and it certainly puts an on-cost onto managing hives which would then filter down the chain so pollination events may incur a higher price."

Read the full article at:

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/2018-02-23/sentinel-beehives-provide-coastal-defence-against-catastrophic-varroa-mite-invasion/1738206>

I&WMBA Committee 2016 - 2017		
Patron	Norm Hinton	
President	Phil Geeves	0409 485 447
Vice President	George Pallot	07 3202 8332
Secretary	Noela Geeves	07 3281 4165
Treasurer	Kellie Round	0407 114 513
Assistant Secretary	Mike Trott	07 5464 1949
Committee	Phil Dunlop	07 5465 1919
Committee	Grahame Yates	07 3288 8238
Committee	Shane O'Reilly	07 5464 6138
Newsletter & website	Phil Corbett	0419 196 330

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